



United States Congressman — First District, Nebraska

JEFF FORTENBERRY

Statement by the Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests,
and Public Lands
February 27, 2020
Hearing on H.R. 3651

Chairwoman Haaland, Ranking Member Young, and members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for holding this hearing on H.R. 3651, a bill designed to help the Lewis and Clark visitor center in my district.

The Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center in Nebraska City is an outstanding resource and impressive facility. The non-profit organization associated with it includes a committed group of individuals who have spent many years ensuring that it provides a meaningful and educational experience for those who visit. This

legislative would provide an option for raising additional revenue to operate the visitor center.

This Lewis and Clark Visitor Center is truly unique. It is the only visitor center or museum in the U.S. to focus on the flora and fauna and scientific discoveries recorded by Lewis and Clark.

In 2008, the visitor center was conveyed from the National Park Service to a non-profit organization, which is operating the site. H.R. 3651 would simply authorize the center to enter into a lease or agreement to use for public outdoor recreation, up to 40 acres of the land at the site.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was a watershed mark in American history. More than two centuries later, the courageous story of these two outstanding explorers and the Corps of Discovery continues to inspire Americans of all ages. This legislation will help ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to learn about this remarkable journey. I have a letter of support from Doug

Friedli, executive director of the visitor center, which I would like to include the record.

Again, I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 3651. Thank you for holding this hearing and considering my comments.